

Remarks

Reconsideration and further examination of the above-identified patent application in light of the present Amendment, Reply, and Remarks is respectfully requested.

A Petition for an extension of time is enclosed along with the required extension fee.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency in fees or any other fees in connection with the above-identified patent application to our Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

Claims 1, 3-15, 17-18, and 20-21 were pending prior to this Amendment.

Claims 7, 11, 14 and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 2, 16, 19 and 22-24 were previously canceled.

The matters objected to in the claims have been corrected or canceled as per the Examiner's requests in order to make the claims more definite and clear and better comply with 35 USC 112 and/or to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Furthermore, the objections to claim 16 do not apply since claim 16 had been previously canceled.

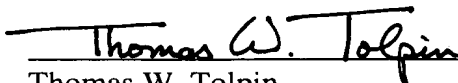
Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 12, 15, and 17- 18 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinguish applicants' invention.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 12-15, 17-18, and 21 are presently pending for the consideration of the Examiner.

Inasmuch as the preceding amendment complies with the Examiner's requests and cures the Examiner's objections, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney in order to expedite this application to allowance, if the preceding does not already place the above-identified application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas W. Tolpin
Registration Number 27,600
Attorney for Applicants

Address:

Welsh & Katz, Ltd.
22nd Floor
120 South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, IL 60606

Phone: (312) 655-1500